UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/363
31 March 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to inform you that the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo held an urgent meeting at the ambassadorial level on 26 March 1999 to discuss the disturbing situation in Kosovo. The Contact Group adopted a statement on the situation in Kosovo, the text of which is contained in the annex to this letter.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hadi NEJAD HOSSEINIAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
Chairman of the OIC Contact Group
on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo

Annex

Statement of the OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosova on the situation in Kosova

The Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosova, at its meeting held at the Ambassadorial level on 26 March 1999, expressed its deep regret over the failure of the peace effort to persuade the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to accept a political solution to the issue of Kosova. Indeed, the international community has done its utmost for more than a year to find a peaceful solution to the Kosova conflict, as reflected, among others, in the letter dated 14 March 1999 from the Secretary-General of the OIC to the President of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro). The Contact Group noted that the efforts of international community, at least, brought about the signature of the Kosovar Albanian representatives. The Contact Group also recalled its position on the situation in Kosova as contained, in particular, in UN Security Council documents S/1998/923 dated 6 October 1998 and S/1999/76 dated 26 January 1999.

The Contact Group noted with grave concern that the Belgrade regime under President Milosevic not only has persistently refused to engage seriously in the search for a political solution but has conducted military operations and is continuing to do so against the civilian population in Kosova, forcing thousands and thousands out of their homes, burning entire villages, committing the crimes of genocide and ethnic cleansing, in contravention of the provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions and international humanitarian law. The Contact Group took note of the fact that in view of the failure of all diplomatic efforts, due to the intransigence of the Belgrade authorities, a decisive international action was necessary to prevent humanitarian catastrophe and further violations of human rights in Kosova.

The OIC Contact Group on Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosova would have wished that the crisis in Kosova could be dealt with in an effective manner by the Security Council. It is regrettable that the Security Council has been unable to discharge its responsibility in this case in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The Contact Group reiterated that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council shall act on behalf of the Members of the United Nations.

The Contact Group expressed its serious concern about the fact that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) has unleashed its war machine against its own civilians, engaged, most recently, in military aggression against its neighbors, blatantly violated the provisions of international law and numerous Security Council resolutions and refuses to cooperate with the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia. The OIC Contact Group reiterates its position that the mandate of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia covers the crimes committed on the territory of Kosova and the Tribunal should bring those responsible for grave violation of international humanitarian law to justice.

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

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GENERAL

S/1999/364
31 March 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ARABIC

LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

At 1700 hours on 18 March 1999 a Kuwaiti patrol unit consisting of two naval craft intercepted the Iraqi fishing boat bearing the number 155/Basrah inside Iraq's territorial waters in the Khawr Abd Allah area east of buoy 7. The patrol fired on the boat, shattering the cockpit windscreen. The Kuwaiti patrol required the boat's master, Adil Murtada Abd, to lower his flag and hand over the identity documents of the nine accompanying fishermen and the compass.

I request you to intervene with the Government of Kuwait with a view to halting these repeated and unwarranted actions, given that they are in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of public international law and that they pose a threat to the sovereignty and security of Iraq. I also affirm Iraq's legally established right to seek lawful compensation for the damage done to it and to its nationals by the perpetration of these hostile acts.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/54/77
S/1999/365
31 March 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-fourth session
Item 43 of the preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 30 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I refer to the letter addressed to you from the Palestinian Permanent Observer dated 25 March 1999 (A/53/879-S/1999/334), concerning General Assembly resolution 181 (II) of 29 November 1947.

General Assembly resolution 181 (II) was made null and void by the Arab States and the Palestinian leadership in the aftermath of its adoption on 29 November 1947. In statement after statement on the floor of the General Assembly, representatives of Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia not only refused to comply with its recommendations but also subsequently admitted to the use of armed force to overthrow its provisions.

With the termination of the British Mandate over Palestine on 14 May 1948, the armies of seven Arab States illegally attacked the newly born State of Israel. United Nations Secretary-General Trygve Lie termed this act "the first armed aggression which the world had seen since the end of the [Second World] War". It should be noted that the Arab League actually included the rejection of the General Assembly resolution of 29 November 1947 as a formal justification for its invasion.

The United Nations Palestine Commission, in its report to the Security Council on 16 February 1948, viewed the armed Arab invasion as an act intended to nullify resolution 181 (II): "Organized efforts are being made by strong Arab elements inside and outside Palestine to prevent the implementation of the Assembly's plan of partition and to thwart its objectives by threats and acts of violence, including armed incursions into Palestinian territory ... This Commission now finds itself confronted with an attempt to defeat its purposes, and to nullify the resolution of the General Assembly."

* A/54/50.

The War imposed on Israel was particularly difficult for Jerusalem. By the end of May 1948, the Jewish Quarter of the Old City had fallen. Its residents were expelled. Ancient synagogues had been destroyed or desecrated. The rest of Jerusalem was put under siege and surrounded by invading armies on three sides. Only the convoys of the newly formed Israel Defence Forces provided food and water to Jerusalem's residents. No United Nations body took any action to protect Jerusalem at this critical time.

For these reasons, Israel's first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion stated before the Knesset on 3 December 1949: "Thus we can no longer regard the United Nations resolution of 29th November as having any moral force. After the United Nations failed to implement its own resolution, we regard the resolution of the 29th November concerning Jerusalem to be null and void."

The fundamental act of international illegality was the invasion of the nascent State of Israel and the attempt to overturn a resolution of the General Assembly with armed force. That is why those seeking to critique Israel's position on the status of resolution 181 (II) are misdirected. For in fact, resolution 181 (II) was made irrelevant by the actions of the Arab States and the Palestinian leadership in 1948, whose refusal to accept the resolution altered the circumstances in the Middle East on which it was originally based.

By early 1949, with their invasion thwarted, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Transjordan entered into armistice agreements with the State of Israel. These agreements made no mention of 181 (II). Similarly, Security Council resolution 73 (1949) of 11 August 1949, which endorsed the armistice, made no reference to 181 (II). In short, from the perspective of Israel, resolution 181 (II) had been overtaken by the events of 1947-1949.

In order to respond to the new realities that emerged in the years and decades following the partition resolution, the United Nations abandoned the proposals contained in resolution 181 (II). In its place, the Security Council adopted resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) which provided a radically different formula for the settlement of the conflict. Indeed, this is the only formula that has been accepted by all concerned as the basis for permanent status negotiations.

In contrast, resolution 181 (II) has never been part of the agreed foundation for the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians. The letters of invitation to the Madrid Peace Conference of 1991 and the Oslo Agreements signed between Israel and the PLO expressly provide that permanent status negotiations are to be based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). No other United Nations resolution is cited. The Palestinians have thus affirmed that a permanent resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will be achieved by a negotiated settlement in West Bank and Gaza Strip territory that is the subject of those Security Council resolutions.

The resurrection of resolution 181 (II) by the PLO is a transparent effort to belatedly derive benefit from a resolution which the Palestinian leadership itself violently rejected 50 years ago. Repeated references to resolution 181 (II) are, moreover, part of an effort to completely alter the agreed terms of reference of the Arab-Israeli peace agreements, and thereby put the entire

peace process at risk. Finally, it seeks to broaden the parameters of the discussion of Jerusalem far beyond what was ever conceived in the Oslo Accords. Let it be clear that, in any future discussions over the status of Jerusalem, the position of the Government of Israel remains firm that Jerusalem will continue to be the undivided capital of Israel.

These attempts to revive the defunct resolution 181 (II) can be added to a worrying list of recent Palestinian efforts to depart from the agreed peace process framework. These efforts include threats to unilaterally declare a Palestinian State, in violation of repeated Palestinian undertakings to refrain from unilateral acts that alter the status of the territories pending the outcome of permanent status negotiations (Interim Agreement, article XXXI.7). They involve also Palestinian Authority activity in Jerusalem, which is expressly prohibited by the provisions of the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement (article I.7).

If the peace process is to have any chance of success, the Palestinian side cannot be permitted to discard legal obligations whenever it is politically convenient to do so. The international community must insist that the Palestinians comply with the peace process framework to which they are committed and adhere to the legal undertakings they themselves have made.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 43 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dore GOLD
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/366
31 March 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to enclose herewith the text of a letter dated 31 March 1999 from His Excellency Mr. Zivadin Jovanović, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, concerning the duty of the world Organization to stop the aggression of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization against my country (see annex).

I would be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIĆ
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex

Letter dated 31 March 1999 from the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the Secretary-General

I recall my letters to the Security Council of 1 February (S/1999/107, annex) and 17 March 1999 (S/1999/292, annex) warning against the threats of aggression by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and asking that measures be undertaken, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, in order to protect my country from impending aggression. I should also like to recall the letter dated 24 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations informing the Security Council of the aggression committed against my county and requesting an emergency action of the Council to condemn and stop it.

I have been deeply disappointed that, despite our appeal and the efforts of the representatives of peace-loving Member States, the Security Council has failed to act in accordance with its responsibilities as set forth in the Charter of the United Nations.

The brutal NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, an independent and sovereign country, a founding Member and a State Member of the United Nations, continues and is even being expanded. For the first time since the Second World War, an open act of aggression has been committed in Europe. At the same time, it is the first case that the mightiest military alliance is cooperating directly with a separatist-terrorist organization in an attack against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of a State Member of the United Nations. The NATO aggression has dealt the most dangerous blow so far to the system of collective security and the international legal system as a whole.

The NATO aggression, criminal air strikes against civilian targets across the entire Yugoslav territory, continues unabated without any reaction on your part. Aggressor bombs and bombs with delayed action throughout my country continue to sow death and cause people to suffer, to destroy their homes, economic and cultural facilities, religious sites, schools, hospitals, farms, national parks and infrastructure.

Causing casualties among civilians, filling hospitals with the wounded, expelling people from their peaceful homes - NATO bombs have become a cruel mechanism bringing about a humanitarian catastrophe. The States, i.e., the Governments committing the aggression, bear the responsibility for all the consequences, and the persons who took part in making and implementing these genocidal decisions - for crimes against peace and humanity.

I call upon you once again to urgently act within your powers, particularly those spelled out in Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations, in order to put an end to the NATO aggression and the further endangerment of international peace and security without delay. You are faced with a historic opportunity to take the side of justice and law and, at the threshold of a new

century, to protect the authority of the United Nations and to restore the trust of humanity in the world Organization. The alternative is that by failing to fulfil your obligations you will become an accomplice in undermining the system of the United Nations. I hope that it is still not too late for you to make the right choice and that you will muster the courage to stand for the rule of law rather than aggression and force.

(Signed) Zivadin JOVANOVIĆ

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/367
1 April 1999

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1999 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

Following the letter of Javier Solana, Secretary-General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), addressed to you on 23 March 1999 (see S/1999/338) specifying the instances of alleged non-compliance by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1199 (1998), I have been instructed by my Government to advise you of the following:

The data contained in the annex to the letter of Mr. Solana citing the instances of Yugoslavia's alleged non-compliance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 1199 (1998) in the reporting period from 16 January to 22 March 1999 are inaccurate, biased and malicious.

Following the expiry of the said reporting period, NATO commenced an all-out armed aggression against Yugoslavia on 24 March 1999, trampling upon each and every principle of international law and the decisions of relevant international institutions, primarily those of the Security Council, the most responsible organ of the world Organization for maintaining international peace and security. This act of aggression has been committed against an independent, sovereign and peace-loving country which does not threaten any other country, does not question the interests of others and respects and abides strictly by the principles, rules and procedures of the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and other relevant documents.

No mention in the annex is made of numerous instances of the killing, kidnapping, mistreatment and other terrorist acts committed by the terrorists of the so-called Kosovo Liberation Army against civilians and members of the Army and security forces of Yugoslavia. The aim of the signing by Kosovo and Metohija separatists and terrorists of the Rambouillet paper, published in the Albanian language newspaper Koha Ditore in Pristina several days before the "negotiations" even started, was to provide an alibi for aggression.

Following the Agreement reached between Slobodan Milosevic, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and Richard Holbrooke, United States Special Envoy, "KLA" terrorists committed 1,062 terrorist actions or provocations in the period from 13 October 1998 to 21 March 1999. A total of 885 attacks and

provocations were committed against the police, in which 32 police officers were killed and 7 kidnapped. The fate of 4 police officers is unknown. Moreover, 377 civilians fell prey to terrorist attacks, 127 of them were killed and 147 severely wounded. Terrorists kidnapped 94 civilians, killing 14 of them, while the fate of 37 is unknown; and 59 terrorist attacks were committed against the members of the Army of Yugoslavia in which 3 soldiers were killed and 10 severely wounded.

The claims that the activities of the Government security forces are the main cause of the suffering and displacement of the population in Kosovo and Metohija are undocumented and therefore unfounded. No repressive actions have been taken against the civilian population. The law and order authorities act in a restrained manner and in accordance with the law and react, naturally and legitimately, only in self-defence.

The NATO shameful aggression against Yugoslavia has taken a heavy toll in human life and caused enormous material destruction. Its alleged aim is to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe from taking place in Kosovo and Metohija, but by its brutal and barbaric actions NATO is in fact provoking a humanitarian catastrophe of unseen proportions in the entire territory of the country. NATO is callously oblivious of the fact that for a great number of years Yugoslavia and its constituent Republic of Serbia have been faced with rampant secessionism and ruthless terrorism in Kosovo and Metohija, an integral part of the Serbian State for centuries. The terrorism of ethnic Albanian extremists has been on the rise in the last several months, aided and abetted from abroad. In committing the act of aggression, NATO has taken side with the forces of separatism and terrorism in Kosovo and Metohija which threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia. Open support to the forces of destruction and terrorism is a dangerous precedent for overall international relations.

The Kosovo Verification Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe was withdrawn following a unilateral decision of Knut Vollebaek, OSCE Chairman-in-Office. The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had invested its best efforts to provide conditions for unhampered work by the Mission. The competent Yugoslav and Serbian authorities fulfilled all their obligations towards the Mission, including guarantees of full safety to its members.

Yugoslavia does not threaten the stability and territorial integrity of its neighbours. Sporadic military operations in border areas have been taken in response to premeditated activities of "KLA" terrorists who, by stepping up their attacks and aggravating the overall situation in those areas, seek to disrupt the normal life of the population and provoke a mass exodus. The recent displacement of the population has come about as a consequence of NATO aerial bombardment as people flee their homes in search of shelter. After all, faced with a humanitarian catastrophe of mass-scale proportion, the people in the rest of Yugoslavia spend hours under ground as their cities and towns are being devastated by NATO bombs.

It is my firm conviction that heedful of the bidding of your conscience and in your capacity as head of the world Organization, you will raise your voice

against the violation of the basic principles of international law, condemn the shameful act of aggression and express solidarity with the just request of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia that the NATO aggression be brought to an immediate and unconditional end.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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General Assembly
Security Council

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A/53/894
S/1999/368
1 April 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 64
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY - PREVENTION OF THE
VIOLENT DISINTEGRATION OF STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 1 April 1999 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the texts of the statements made by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and the State Duma Committee for International Affairs in connection with the aggression by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (see annexes).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annexes circulated as documents of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

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Annex I

Statement by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation in connection with the NATO aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

On 24 March 1999, in implementation of its decision to carry out missile and bomb strikes, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) engaged in direct aggression against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, bringing Europe to the verge of war.

This represents yet another attempt to use crude military force to impose one's will on a sovereign State and establish a unipolar world order in the twenty-first century in which the fates of the peoples would be decided only in Washington. The supreme international body - the United Nations - is being discredited, and military and coercive methods are being established for the solution of international and domestic problems of sovereign States.

The numerous casualties among the population and the civilian targets which have been destroyed in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia demonstrate the utter baselessness of attempts to justify the missile and bomb strikes on the grounds of preventing a humanitarian catastrophe. Henceforth the United States of America and the other participants in the aggression will have completely lost all moral grounds for using slogans about the protection of human rights and freedoms.

The aggression by NATO against the sovereign Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is giving rise to deep indignation in all regions of the Russian Federation.

The initiators and perpetrators of this aggression and genocide against the peoples of Yugoslavia must inescapably bear the responsibility envisaged by the norms of international law for their crimes against humanity.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation stresses the special responsibility of the parliamentarians of the NATO member countries for the virtual sanctioning of an act of aggression against a sovereign State Member of the United Nations, the consequences of which will inevitably lead to an escalation of terrorism and separatism on a world-wide scale.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation supports the efforts of the President of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation aimed at an immediate halting of the missile and bomb strikes against the territory of Yugoslavia and a rapid settlement of the crisis which has developed, and believes that it is necessary that:

The President of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation should demand the convening of an emergency session of the United Nations General Assembly to consider the question of the blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations by the NATO member States, the aggression

against a sovereign Member State of the United Nations, and also the repeal of the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

The Government of the Russian Federation should consider the question of providing economic and technical assistance to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations;

The Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation body should initiate consideration of the fact of NATO aggression in order to work out measures for an immediate halt to the aggression and a return to the use of political means for the settlement of the Kosovo conflict;

The parliaments of the States parties of the Commonwealth of Independent States should be urged to support the position of the Russian Federation on a peaceful settlement of the crisis in the Balkans and to consider that situation at the meeting of the Parliamentary Assembly of the States parties of the Commonwealth of Independent States, taking into account the need to make appropriate additions to the Treaty on Collective Security;

The desire of the inhabitants of the Russian Federation to provide humanitarian assistance to the peoples of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia should be supported;

The President of the Russian Federation, the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation should accelerate the signing of the joint statement by the President of the Russian Federation, the Federation Council and the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation "On strengthening civilian peace and political stability in the country";

A fund for assistance to the victims of the military aggression should be established.

Taking into account the particular acuteness of the political, military and strategic situation, the basic provisions of the national security concept of the Russian Federation should be reviewed in a critical manner and a series of measures necessary to strengthen the country's defence capability should be implemented without delay.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation calls upon all the political and social forces of the country to consolidate efforts to stabilize the socio-economic situation in the country as the basis for the defence capability of the State and effective foreign policy aimed at protecting the national and State interests of the Russian Federation.

Annex II

Statement by the State Duma Committee on International Affairs in connection with the decision by NATO to carry out military action against Yugoslavia

The decision by NATO to carry out missile and bomb strikes against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is irresponsible and extremely dangerous. The use of military force against a sovereign State Member of the United Nations without the approval of the United Nations Security Council can only be termed an act of aggression and a blatant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of the principles and norms of international law and also of the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between the Russian Federation and NATO. This action poses the risk of the outbreak of wide-scale military conflict in the Balkans, during which there would inevitably be many casualties and much destruction.

The policy of the NATO bloc has brought Europe to the verge of the most serious military and political crisis in recent decades. The leaders of the North Atlantic alliance clearly do not realize what serious consequences their military adventure against Yugoslavia could entail for Europe and the entire world. It will not only dash hopes for a peaceful political settlement of the situation in Kosovo and Metohija, but also undermine the foundations of stability in Europe and cause irreparable damage to European security.

The fact that NATO aggression against Yugoslavia is being planned despite the firm position of the Russian Federation confirms that the leaders of the States of the West, flouting the political obligations laid down in the documents of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Founding Act between the Russian Federation and NATO, no longer intend to take Russian interests into account and have adopted a more or less hostile position with regard to the Russian Federation.

The State Duma Committee for International Affairs firmly condemns the actions of NATO in relation to Yugoslavia and declares its solidarity with the people of fraternal Yugoslavia, who are faced with the threat of aggression. The Committee believes that the President of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Russian Federation must work out a series of concrete measures which would be an adequate response to the military action of NATO. In the event of an escalation of the aggression, the most serious consideration must be given to the question of providing military assistance to Yugoslavia. It is obvious that under current conditions the continuation of any kind of cooperation between the Russian Federation and the North Atlantic bloc would, through the fault of NATO, be pointless.

The State Duma Committee for International Affairs believes that it is necessary to convene an emergency session of the State Duma to consider in detail the question of the aggressive actions of NATO and work out legislative measures for the support of friendly Yugoslavia.

The deputies who are members of the Committee demand that the leaders of the States members of the North Atlantic alliance should reconsider without delay the decision to carry out military strikes against Yugoslavia. The Committee believes that the negotiating process for a political settlement of the situation in Kosovo and Metohija must be resumed without delay, under the auspices of the United Nations, for the purpose of finding ways to resolve the conflict by exclusively peaceful means.

(Signed) V. I. LUKIN
Chairman of the Committee

UNITED
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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1999/369
6 April 1999
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH AND FRENCH

Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its resolution of 21 December 1998 (S/RES/1216 (1998)) and the statements of its President of 6 November 1998 (S/PRST/1998/31), 30 November 1998 (S/PRST/1998/35) and 29 December 1998 (S/PRST/1998/38),

Gravely concerned at the security and humanitarian situation in Guinea-Bissau,

Expressing its firm commitment to preserving the unity, sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of Guinea-Bissau,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General of 17 March 1999 (S/1999/294) and the observations contained therein,

Noting with appreciation the formal undertaking by the President of Guinea-Bissau and the leader of the Self-Proclaimed Military Junta on 17 February 1999 never again to resort to arms (S/1999/173),

Welcoming the establishment and swearing-in on 20 February 1999 of the new Government of National Unity in Guinea-Bissau which constitutes a significant step forward in the peace process,

Noting with concern that serious obstacles continue to hamper the effective functioning of the new Government, including in particular, the failure of civil servants and other professional cadres seeking refuge in other countries to return,

Welcoming the deployment of troops constituting the Interposition Force of the Military Observer Group of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOMOG) by States in the region to implement their peacekeeping mandate and the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Guinea-Bissau pursuant to the Abuja Agreement of 1 November 1998 (S/1998/1028, annex),

Reiterating the need to conduct general and presidential elections pursuant to the Abuja Agreement and in accordance with national constitutional

requirements as soon as possible, and noting the expression by the parties of their firm interest in having elections held as soon as possible,

1. Reiterates that the primary responsibility for achieving lasting peace in Guinea-Bissau rests with the parties and strongly calls upon them to implement fully all the provisions of the Abuja Agreement and subsequent undertakings;

2. Commends the parties for the steps taken so far in the implementation of the Abuja Agreement, in particular the establishment of the new Government of National Unity, and strongly urges them to adopt and implement all measures necessary to ensure the smooth functioning of the new Government and all other institutions, including in particular confidence-building measures and measures to encourage the early return of refugees and internally displaced persons;

3. Commends also the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP), member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and leaders in and outside the region, in particular the President of the Republic of Togo in his capacity as Chairman of ECOWAS, for the key role they are playing to bring about national reconciliation and to consolidate peace and security throughout Guinea-Bissau;

4. Expresses its appreciation to those States which have already provided assistance for the deployment of ECOMOG in Guinea-Bissau;

5. Reiterates its urgent appeal to all States and regional organizations to make financial contributions to ECOMOG, including through the United Nations trust fund established to support peacekeeping in Guinea-Bissau, to provide technical and logistical support to assist ECOMOG to carry out its peacekeeping mandate and to help facilitate the full implementation of all the provisions of the Abuja Agreement, and to that end invites the Secretary-General to consider convening a meeting in New York with the participation of ECOWAS in order to assess the needs of ECOMOG and to examine ways in which contributions could be mobilized and channelled;

6. Calls upon the parties concerned promptly to agree on a date for the holding of elections as soon as possible which are all-inclusive, free and fair, and invites the United Nations and others to consider, as appropriate, providing any needed electoral assistance;

7. Supports the decision of the Secretary-General to establish a Post-Conflict Peace Building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) under the leadership of a Representative of the Secretary-General (S/1999/233) which will provide the political framework and leadership for harmonizing and integrating the activities of the United Nations system in Guinea-Bissau during the transitional period leading up to general and presidential elections and will facilitate, in close cooperation with the parties concerned, ECOWAS, ECOMOG as well as other national and international partners, the implementation of the Abuja Agreement;

8. Encourages all agencies, programmes, offices and funds of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as other

international partners to lend their support to UNOGBIS and to the Representative of the Secretary-General in order to establish, together with the Government of Guinea-Bissau, a comprehensive, concerted and coordinated approach to peace-building in Guinea-Bissau;

9. Reiterates the need for the simultaneous disarmament and encampment of ex-belligerent troops, welcomes the progress made by ECOMOG in that regard, and strongly urges the parties to continue to cooperate through the Special Commission established for that purpose, to conclude expeditiously these tasks and to create conditions for the reunification of the national armed and security forces;

10. Emphasizes the need for urgent demining of affected areas to pave the way for the return of refugees and displaced persons and for the resumption of agricultural activities, encourages ECOMOG to continue its demining activities and calls upon States to provide the necessary assistance for demining;

11. Calls upon all concerned to respect strictly the relevant provisions of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, to ensure safe and unimpeded access by humanitarian organizations to those in need and to ensure the protection and freedom of movement of United Nations and international humanitarian personnel;

12. Reiterates its appeal to States and organizations concerned to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to internally displaced persons and refugees;

13. Welcomes the planned round-table conference of donors on Guinea-Bissau to be held in Geneva on 4-5 May 1999, under the sponsorship of UNDP, to mobilize assistance for, inter alia, humanitarian needs, consolidation of peace and socio-economic rehabilitation of Guinea-Bissau;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to keep the Security Council regularly informed and to submit a report to it by 30 June 1999 and every 90 days thereafter on developments in Guinea-Bissau, the activities of UNOGBIS and the implementation of the Abuja Agreement, including the implementation by ECOMOG of its mandate;

15. Decides to remain seized of the matter.